

## AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled.

B<sup>1</sup>  
18. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube comprising at least two electrodes and at least one hollow insulator fastened to at least one of the electrodes, wherein said at least two electrodes have a chemically inert surface, and wherein the chemically inert surface has been ~~arranged onto~~ applied to the electrodes using a physical vapour deposition or a chemical vapour deposition of coating material.

19. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim 18, wherein the ~~chemically inert surface~~ coating material is selected from the group of carbon, gold, and platinum.

20. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim 19, wherein the coating material is carbon and said carbon is present as a polymorph of carbon, ~~such as diamond, diamond-like carbon or graphite.~~

21. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim ~~19~~ 20, wherein the carbon has been ~~arranged~~ applied using sputtering.


(22) (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein the carbon is ~~arranged in addition of~~ applied in combination with a metal.

(23) (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim ~~18~~ 22, wherein the metal is chromium or titanium.

24. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim 18, wherein said carbon is present as a polymorph of carbon, ~~such as diamond, diamond-like carbon or graphite.~~

25. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim 24, wherein the carbon is present as graphite in ~~addition to~~ combination with a metal.

26. (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim ~~18~~ 24, wherein the carbon has been ~~arranged~~ applied using sputtering.

 ~~27.~~ (currently amended) Gas discharge tube according to claim ~~18~~ 24, wherein the carbon is present in a layer having a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

28. (currently amended) Method for the manufacture of gas discharge tubes comprising at least two electrodes, and at least one hollow insulator fastened to the electrodes, wherein said at least two electrodes have a chemically inert surface, said method comprising the step of applying a coating material to form the chemically inert surface onto the electrodes using a physical vapour deposition or a chemical vapour deposition process.

29. (currently amended) Method according to claim 28, wherein the ~~chemically inert surface~~ coating material is selected from the group of carbon, gold, and platinum.

30. (currently amended) Method according to claim 29, wherein the coating material ~~is carbon is arranged in addition to~~ in combination with a metal.

31. (currently amended) Method according to claim 30, wherein the metal is chromium or titanium.

32. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~28~~ 29, wherein the coating material is carbon, and said carbon is present as polymorph of carbon, ~~such as diamond, diamond-like carbon or graphite.~~

33. (currently amended) Method according to claim 32, wherein the carbon is present as graphite in ~~addition to~~ combination with a metal.

34. (currently amended) Method according to claim 28 29, wherein the carbon has been ~~arranged~~ applied using sputtering.

35. (currently amended) Method according to claim 28 29, wherein the deposition of carbon takes place in an atmosphere of methane.

36. (currently amended) Method according to claim 28 29, wherein the carbon is present in a layer having a thickness of  $1\mu\text{m}$ .

37. (canceled)

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Concluded  
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